

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES

The Children's Division receives a federal formula grant through Title III of Public Law 98-457 (as amended by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 [The Crime Bill], Public Law 103-322, dated September 13, 1994) for the prevention and treatment of family violence. The Division disburses federal funding through contracts, which are competitively bid, to 54 statewide domestic violence programs, who serve victims of domestic violence. In addition, the Division receives state funds to help support Family Violence Services. The Division also disburses state funds through contracts to 81 community-based providers throughout the state, who provide shelter and services to victims of domestic violence. The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides statewide domestic violence training, technical assistance, and monitoring to the statewide domestic violence programs.

Missouri continues to provide statewide training on family violence to the new employees of the Department of Social Services. The goals of the training were to better enable staff to appropriately assist family members who are impacted by family violence. State funds are used to support this continued effort by making this training part of the Department's basic training for Children's Division and Family Support Division (Child Support and Income Maintenance staff).

St. Louis County has partnered with the Family Court of St. Louis and area domestic violence service providers to obtain a grant through the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services. This consortium is one of six demonstration projects across the country. The initiative will focus on cross training of staff, development of coordinated policies, development of secure ways to share information and protect confidentiality, create community awareness, and develop culturally competent services. Desired outcomes include increased safety and well-being for victims, increased accountability for offenders, a comprehensive community service system, and implementation of best practices as outlined in *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (Policy document written by the Division).